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Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 1 to 5, page ⁵⁵44 (paragraph [0241] of U.S. publication 20030049815), with the following amended paragraph.

PCR product and pQE60™ vector (Qiagen) were both digested with EcoRI and BglII restriction endonucleases (New England Biolabs) according to manufacturers protocols. Ligation and transformation into, and expression in M15 pREP4™ host cells (Qiagen) yields c-term 6X-His tagged protein.

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 9 to 13, page 59 (paragraph [0262] of U.S. publication 20030049815), with the following amended paragraph.

The following vectors are provided by way of example; Bacterial: pQE70™, pQE60™, pQE-9™ (Qiagen), pBLUESCRIPT II™ ~~pBluescript II~~ (Stratagene); pTRC99a™, pKK223-3™, pDR540™, pRIT2™ (Pharmacia); Eukaryotic: pXTI™, pSG5™ (Stratagene) pSVK3™, pBPV™, pMSG™, pSVLSV40™ (Pharmacia). However, any other plasmids or other vectors may be used as long as they are replicable and viable in the host.

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 6 to 12, page 61 (paragraph [0271] of U.S. publication 20030049815), with the following amended paragraph.

As a representative but nonlimiting example, useful expression vectors for bacterial use can comprise a selectable marker and bacterial origin of replication derived from commercially available plasmids comprising genetic elements of the well known cloning vector pBR322 (ATCC 37017). Such commercial vectors include, for example, pKK223-3™ (Pharmacia Fine Chemicals, Uppsala, Sweden) and GEMI™ (Promega Biotec, Madison, Wis., USA). These pBR322 "backbone" sections are combined with an appropriate promoter and the structural sequence to be expressed.

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 7 to 14, page 96 (paragraph [0402] of U.S. publication 20030049815), with the following amended paragraph.